

2:30 p.m. in room 485 of the Russell Senate Building to conduct a hearing on the S. 2526, to reauthorize the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on Wednesday, July 26, 2000, at 9:30 a.m., in 226 Dirksen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 26, 2000, to markup S. 1594, "Community Development and Venture Capital Act of 1999," and other pending matters. The markup will begin at 9:00 a.m. in room 428A of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Forests and Public Lands of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 26, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct an oversight hearing to receive testimony on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement implementing the October 1999 announcement by President Clinton to review approximately 40 million acres of national forest lands for increased protection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 26 at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a legislative hearing followed by an oversight hearing. The subcommittee will receive testimony on S. 2877, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study on water optimization in the Burnt River basin, Malheur River basin, Owyhee River basin, and Powder River basin, Oregon; S. 2881, a bill to update an existing Bureau of Reclamation program by amending the Small Reclamation Projects Act of 1956, to establish a partnership program in the Bureau of Reclamation for small reclamation projects, and for other purposes; and S. 2882, a bill to authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct certain feasibility studies to augment water supplies for the Klamath Project, Oregon and California, and for other purposes. The subcommittee will then receive oversight testimony on the status of the Biological Opinions of the National

Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the operations of the Federal hydropower system of the Columbia River.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for Jim Worth of my office to be granted the privilege of the floor for the rest of the week.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON CALENDAR

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of the following nominations and that they be placed on the executive calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations are as follows:

Edward E. Kaufman, of Delaware, to be a Member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2003. (Reappointment)

Alberto J. Mora, of Florida, to be a Member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2003. (Reappointment)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination on the executive calendar: No. 524.

I further ask unanimous consent that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination was considered and confirmed, as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Mildred Spiewak Dresselhaus, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Office of Science, Department of Energy.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

INDIAN LAND CONSOLIDATION ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1999

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 714, S. 1586.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1586) to reduce the fractionated ownership of Indian Lands, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment:

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

S. 1586

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Indian Land Consolidation Act Amendments of 2000".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) in the 1800's and early 1900's, the United States sought to assimilate Indian people into the surrounding non-Indian culture by allotting tribal lands to individual members of Indian tribes;

(2) as a result of the allotment Acts and related Federal policies, over 90,000,000 acres of land have passed from tribal ownership;

(3) many trust allotments were taken out of trust status, often without their owners consent;

(4) without restrictions on alienation, allotment owners were subject to exploitation and their allotments were often sold or disposed of without any tangible or enduring benefit to their owners;

(5) the trust periods for trust allotments have been extended indefinitely;

(6) because of the inheritance provisions in the original treaties or allotment Acts, the ownership of many of the trust allotments that have remained in trust status has become fractionated into hundreds or thousands of interests, many of which represent 2 percent or less of the total interests;

(7) Congress has authorized the acquisition of lands in trust for individual Indians, and many of those lands have also become fractionated by subsequent inheritance;

(8) the acquisitions referred to in paragraph (7) continue to be made;

(9) the fractional interests described in this section provide little or no return to the beneficial owners of those interests and the administrative costs borne by the United States for those interests are inordinately high;

(10) in *Babbitt v. Youpee* (117 S Ct. 727 (1997)), the United States Supreme Court found that the application of section 207 of the Indian Land Consolidation Act (25 U.S.C. 2206) to the facts presented in that case to be unconstitutional, forcing the Department of the Interior to address the status of thousands of undivided interests in trust and restricted lands;

(11)(A) on February 19, 1999, the Secretary of Interior issued a Secretarial Order which officially reopened the probate of all estates where an interest in land was ordered to escheat to an Indian tribe pursuant to section 207 of the Indian Land Consolidation Act (25 U.S.C. 2206); and

(B) the Secretarial Order also directed appropriate officials of the Bureau of Indian Affairs to distribute such interests "to the rightful heirs and beneficiaries without regard to 25 U.S.C. 2206";

(12) in the absence of comprehensive remedial legislation, the number of the fractional interests will continue to grow exponentially;

(13) the problem of the fractionation of Indian lands described in this section is the result of a policy of the Federal Government, cannot be solved by Indian tribes, and requires a solution under Federal law.